

Cal Fed - San Jose  
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M. Saperstein

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Good evening. My name is Trish Gomes and I'm here on behalf of South Bay Water Recycling, our community's regional water reuse program. This summer, we expect to deliver more than 10 million gallons per day-- up to 7500 acre feet per year—to over 200 recycled water customers. This is "home-grown" water that will be used in place of precious Delta supplies. Given the need for more water for the environment, the competing demands of agriculture and cities, and the constant threat of drought, water recycling—like water conservation—just makes sense.

We have commented on proposed CalFed alternatives through various interagency groups, especially the WaterReuse Association of California and the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program. The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program is an effort by two dozen area water and wastewater agencies to develop some 400,000 acre feet of recycled water through regional cooperation in planning, design and implementation. With your help, as much as 100,000 acre feet per year can be recycled within the CalFed Phase 1 time frame, provided that—and this is a big IF—sufficient funds are available to develop the projects and leverage local funding.

We have heard proposals of significant grants for water recycling—as much as half a billion dollars in combined state and federal investment—from CalFed. This is great news. If such funding is made available, it will go a long way towards moving California towards sustainable water use. During the 1970s and early 80s, the federal government spent tens of billions of dollars to fund facilities so we could stop treating our rivers and lakes as sewers and cesspools. Certainly this smaller investment is justified to use water more wisely and more often, and restore our environment.

I have many questions related to the role of recycled water in CalFed, but tonight I would like to raised just a few:

1. How do you see Best Management Practices applied to water recycling? In what ways could it improve upon the existing requirements of the Urban Water Management Plans?
2. What assurances can be provided agencies that their use of recycled water in place of potable supplies won't limit their future entitlements, penalizing them for doing the right thing?
3. Has any thought been given to distribution of the discussed funding, and how might that be accomplished?

Thank you for your attention, and our thanks for your perseverance in this formidable task.